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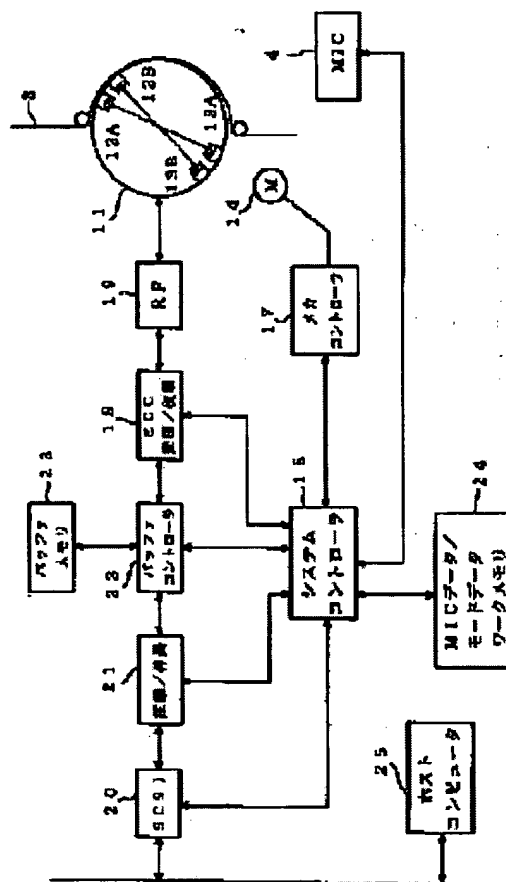
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PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To perform operation setting according to a mode automatically by discriminating modes being set to a tape from either or both of control information being read from a memory being provided at a tape cassette and control information being read from the magnetic tape.

SOLUTION: A tape streamer drive for recording on a magnetic tape 3 by helical scanning is provided with a multi-partition mode for using the magnetic tape in three partitions or more. A tape cassette mounts an MIC:4 that is a non-volatile memory and stores control information including a history for each partition. When the tape cassette is loaded, a system controller 15 accesses the MIC:4. Then, when the control information is read appropriately, the tape cassette is recognized as a cassette in multi-partition mode and the mode information of a work memory 24 is updated to a corresponding mode. When the MIC:4 cannot be recognized, the magnetic tape 3 is run and the control information is read.



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